

MINUTES
WOODSTOCK CITY COUNCIL
August 18, 2015
City Council Chambers

The regular meeting of the Woodstock City Council was called to order at 7:00PM by Mayor Pro-Tem Michael Turner on Tuesday, August 18, 2015 in Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Pro-Tem Turner explained the consent calendar process and invited public participation.

A roll call was taken.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Daniel Hart, Maureen Larson, Mark Saladin, RB Thompson, and Mayor Pro-Tem Michael Turner

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Joseph Starzynski and Mayor Brian Sager

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Roscoe Stelford, City Attorney Ruth Schlossberg, Finance Director Paul Christensen, Public Works Director Jeff Van Landuyt, Planning and Zoning Director Joe Napolitano, and City Planner Nancy Baker.

OTHERS PRESENT: City Clerk Cindy Smiley

FLOOR DISCUSSION

Public Comments

Casey Meyers, 883 Victoria, President of Heartland Realtors' Organization, invited Council members and City staff to a seminar on Thursday, September 17th presented by the Organization and the County entitled "McHenry County Real Estate Tools *Advancing Development*." She detailed some of the presenters and noted that this will be a very timely discussion of Economic Development. She also invited those bodies to a panel discussion of Economic Development on August 24th presented by the Realtors Association of the Fox Valley, Inc.

Mayor Pro-Tem Turner noted he appreciates the efforts of the Heartland Realtors' Organization and agreed that these events are being presented at a very opportune time in light of the City's very significant Economic Development efforts.

M. Larson discussed an article she read recently about getting school district staff and realtors together to promote their community to people interested in moving into the area and asked about this type of effort in Woodstock. Ms. Meyers stated that her staff does a good job of presenting the schools but agreed that she will talk with District 200 about updating and providing more materials to the realtors. M. Larson suggested that a forum be held between the two bodies.

Council Comments

M. Saladin announced that the City was awarded an Enterprise Zone District along with the City of Harvard. He noted that this was a great cooperative effort between the City of Woodstock, Harvard, and McHenry County. He stated the City can now look forward to organization efforts, including appointments to the advisory board. M. Turner noted that this started as two separate applications, with staff then recognizing a great opportunity for cooperation. He stated that this was a huge accomplishment and lauded the great work by City staff.

RB Thompson noted some of the development activity in Woodstock, including Woodstock Commons and the Sonatas.

M. Larson stated she enjoyed the Mozart Festival and expressed her appreciation that the Mozart Festival, Jazzfest, and the Folk Festival are all held in Woodstock within a four-week period.

At the request of Mayor Pro-Tem Turner, R. Stelford provided information on the new Economic Development Director stating that Garrett Anderson has been hired and will begin his new position on September 8. He noted that Mr. Anderson has most recently served as Economic Development Director for Branson, Missouri, and is a talented, dynamic individual with experience in business development and recruitment and retail development. Mr. Stelford also stated that Mr. Anderson is very community-minded, and is involved in many community activities.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by M. Saladin, second by M. Larson, to approve Consent Agenda Items A through D-3.

Mayor Pro-Tem Turner opened the floor to questions from Council members and the Public concerning items on the Consent Agenda.

Item D-1 – Rejection of Bids – Sheriff’s House Windows Restoration

In response to a question from M. Saladin, Nancy Baker detailed the bid request and the alternates involved, stating that all bidders were asked to respond to all items including the base bid and several alternates so the City could pick and choose as desired.

In response to a question from RB Thompson concerning the reason for the 10-year experience requirement and whether this may have decreased the available bidders and increased the bid amounts, N. Baker stated that a bidder could have gotten this experience by working for another contractor for a time. She further stated that the type of work repairing 100-year-old windows, is sophisticated, requiring a lot of experience. She noted that anyone can rebuild a window, but may not have the technical experience to do so properly.

Mayor Pro-Tem Turner noted that Council must look at bids critically, but this is highly-specialized work and the City must be extra cautious when selecting the contractor to do the work.

In response to a question from M. Larson on the methods used to publicize the bid, N. Baker stated that the bid was published in the Northwest Herald and on the City’s website. She also stated that there are three or four companies that monitor these things and publish them in their publications, which are watched by interested prospective bidders. In addition, the City sent bid information to certain vendors and also obtained information on companies from Landmark Illinois and sent bid information to those companies. She noted that the process was open to many local contractors with experience on historic projects. She stated that a lot of companies are not interested in rebuilding windows, however.

In response to a question from M. Saladin, N. Baker stated that Staff is looking at ways to cut costs.

In response to a question from Mayor Pro-Tem Turner, R. Stelford stated that it is hoped to turn this around quickly, rebid, and award the bid yet in September so that much of the work can be completed before winter sets in.

Item D-3 – Downtown Streetscapes Improvement

M. Larson stated she appreciates staff's efforts to find solutions for the landscaping around the Square and would like to see professionals used for plant selection and planning. She suggested Jack Porter or someone at Northwinds Perennials in Wisconsin, who might provide assistance in selecting plants which would be hardy for our area and resistant to the snow and salt.

Mayor Pro-Tem Turner noted that the Square landscaping is very visible to the public and visitors and he would like to see this improved with its maintenance being included as a budget item.

A roll call vote was taken on Consent Agenda items A through D-3:

A. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

August 4, 2015 City Council Workshop

B. WARRANTS: 3676 3677

C. MINUTES AND REPORTS:

Police Department Report – June 2015

D. MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 51

1. Rejection of Bids – Sheriff's House Windows Restoration – Approval to reject all bids and solicit new bids for the Sheriff's House window restoration project.

2. Sale of Surplus Equipment – Adoption of Ordinance 15-0-50, identified as Document No. 1, designating certain items to be surplus and authorizing their disposal as allowed by law through sale, recycling, or disposal.

3. Downtown Streetscapes Improvements – Approval of the purchase of plant material, soil, fertilizer, mulch, and consulting services in FY15/16 in an amount not-to-exceed \$20,000 to improve the appearance of the bump outs within the downtown, with no expenditure in excess of \$10,000 to be incurred for any single vendor.

Ayes: D. Hart, M. Larson, M. Saladin, RB Thompson, and Mayor Pro-Tem Turner. Nays: none. Abstentions: None. Absentees: J. Starzynski and Mayor Sager. Motion carried.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no items added to the future agendas.

ADJOURN

Motion by RB Thompson, second by M. Saladin, to adjourn this meeting of the Woodstock City Council to the next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, September 1, 2015, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Ayes: D. Hart, M. Larson, M. Saladin, RB Thompson, and Mayor Pro-Tem Turner. Nays: None. Absentees: J. Starzynski and Mayor Sager. Abstentions: None. Meeting adjourned at 7:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Smiley
City Clerk